

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DHA-02 EAE-00 /046 W

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O P 151030Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7973

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4518

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 3 & 4)

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MY

SUBJECT: MY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN

REF: STATE 164097

1. I HAD OVER AN HOUR WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THIS AFTER-  
NOON. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS MOST CORDIAL. THE PM INDICATED  
HIS PREFERENCE FOR QUIET, PRIVATE MEETINGS WITHOUT PUBLICITY,  
AND INVITED ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM ANY TIME I HAD A  
PROBLEM TO BRING TO HIS ATTENTION. I ASSURED HIM I WOULD DO  
SO, BUT WOULD TRY NOT TO ABUSE HIS INVITATION. I WENT ALONE  
ON THE CALL, AND HUSSEIN WAS ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY MFA SECRETARY  
GENERAL ZACKARIA.

2. HUSSEIN OPENED THE CONVERSATION WITH A LENGTHY REVIEW OF  
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION, TOUCHING PRETTY MUCH ON  
THE SUBJECTS HE HAD RAISED WITH MY PREDECESSOR ON THE LATTER'S  
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FAREWELL CALL (KUALA LUMPUR 2757) BUT IN A MORE POSITIVE  
VEIN. HE WAS AWARE OF THE SECRETARY'S JUNE 29 ASIA  
SOCIETY SPEECH (I GAVE HIM A PRESENTATION COPY), AND HAD  
CLEARLY BEEN REASSURED CONCERNING U.S. INTENTIONS AND  
ATTITUDES. FOLLOWING HIS GENERAL REMARKS (IN WHICH  
INCIDENTALLY HE MENTIONED THAT IMPORTANCE OF MFS CREDITS TO  
MALAYSIA) HE RAISED SEVERAL SPECIFIC POINTS, REFERRING

OCCASIONALLY TO A BRIEFING PAPER AT HIS SIDE:

3. THAILAND. HUSSEIN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE U.S. WOULD NOT TURN ITS BACK ON THAILAND BECAUSE THE THAI HAD ASKED OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL TO LEAVE. I ASSURED HIM WE HARBORED NO ILL-WILL TOWARD THAILAND, THAT THAILAND WAS A PART OF THE ASEAN REGION WHICH, AS THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH INDICATED, WAS OF GROWING ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO US. I ALSO NOTED THAT WE CONTINUED TO HOLD TO OUR COMMITMENTS IN THE REGION.

4. JAPAN. HUSSEIN REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF JAPAN TO THE REGION AND TO THE U.S. AND SEEMED TO BE SEEKING GENERAL CONFIRMATION THAT WE FAVORED JAPAN'S CLOSE RELATIONS TO THE ASEAN REGION. I CONFIRMED THAT WE WELCOMED STRENGTHENED JAPANESE ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE REGION, NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY HAD PUBLICLY WELCOMED JAPAN'S RECENT DECISION TO DOUBLE ITS ASSISTANCE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

5. THE PHILIPPINES. THE PM ASKED WHAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE WAS TOWARD PHILIPPINE BASES, AND WHETHER WE EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES. AGAIN REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, I SAID WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT THE BASES REMAINED IMPORTANT TO THE PHILIPPINES AS WELL AS TO US, AND THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THIS FEELING WAS SHARED, AT LEAST PRIVATELY, BY ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES. I SAID I WAS NOT FULLY UP TO DATE ON THE STATUS OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY CASE THE NEGOTIATIONS CENTERED ON THE ISSUE OF HOW TO MODERNIZE THE BASE ARRANGEMENTS AND NOT ON THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF THE U.S. PRESENCE ITSELF.

6. INDONESIA. HUSSEIN EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE ATTITUDE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD INDONESIA, APPARENTLY REFLECTING SOME INDONESIAN CONCERNS EXPRESSED TO HIM. I SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION VALUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND RECOGNIZED ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE AREA. I SAID THAT ANY INDONESIAN CONCERNS MAY RELATE IN PART TO THE QUESTION OF CONTINUED GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. I INDICATED THAT IN GENERAL GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS BEING PHASED OUT, EXCEPT IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC CASES, BUT THAT THIS WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST INDONESIA OR ANY COUNTRY. IN ANY CASE, I SAID THAT I ANTICIPATED THAT FMS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INDONESIA HAD PROBABLY BEEN CONCERNED AT THE ATTENTION FOCUSED IN THE U.S. RECENTLY ON EAST TIMOR AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA, AND THAT THE GOI'S STEPS TO RESOLVE ITS POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEM HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD.

7. INDOCHINA REFUGEES. THE PM BROUGHT THIS UP HIMSELF. HE SAID THE PROBLEM WAS OF GROWING CONCERN BECAUSE OF THE GROWING NUMBERS OF REFUGEES. HE SAID THE GOM WAS CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF AGENTS PLACED AMONG THE REFUGEES AND THAT THE GROWING NUMBERS CONSTITUTED A SECURITY PROBLEM OF SOME MAGNITUDE. HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE THEM ASHORE AND DEAL WITH THEIR IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, BUT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ULTIMATE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS. I SAID WE APPRECIATED MALAYSIA'S PROBLEMS WITH THE REFUGEES AS WELL AS ITS ACTIONS TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT SAFETY AND REFUGE IN MALAYSIAN WATERS. I WELCOMED HIS ASSURANCES THAT MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE THEM IN AND CARE FOR THEM UNTIL PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. I  
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SAID THAT WE WERE SEIZED AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITH THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO RESETTLE SOME OF THEM IN THE U.S., AND THAT WE WERE CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE THE UNHCR TO SEEK ADDITIONAL RESETTLEMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES. I NOTED WE WOULD BE MOVING SOME 120 REFUGEES OUT OF MALAYSIA IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

8. PRIVATE INVESTMENT. HUSSEIN ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. WAS TURNING AWAY FROM PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE REGION. I ONCE AGAIN REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, AND SAID WE CONSIDERED TRADE AND INVESTMENT KEY WAYS IN WHICH TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPING WORLD, INCLUDING ASEAN. I SAID THAT AMERICAN INVESTORS WERE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT MALAYSIA IN GENERAL, BUT THAT THERE WERE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH THEY RAN INTO. FOR THIS REASON, I SAID, I THOUGHT DR. MAHATHIR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN NEW YORK WOULD BE USEFUL IN TRYING TO OVERCOME THESE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS.  
MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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